

RETRACE THE TRAIL

The sites of Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, stretching 5,043 miles across nine states, together form a journey of compassion and understanding. The National Park Service administers the trail in partnership with the Trail of Tears Association; the Cherokee Nation; the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; federal, state, county, and local agencies; interested groups; and private landowners. Trail sites are in private, municipal, tribal, federal, or state ownership. Please ask for permission before visiting any trail sites on private lands and check with public sites for visiting hours and regulations. At [www.nps.gov/trte](http://www.nps.gov/trte) click on Plan Your Visit for in-depth travel planning.



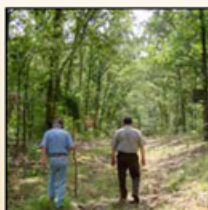
George Murrell married a Cherokee woman and journeyed with her to Indian Territory. In 1845 he built this house near Tahlequah.



Elkhorn Tavern (reconstructed) at Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas, witnessed thousands of Cherokee passing by.



Camp Ground Cemetery near Anna, Illinois, is said to contain the graves of Cherokee who camped nearby.



Hikers retrace a portion of the original northern route where it winds through the Crabb-Abbott Farm near Grantsburg, Illinois.



Blocked by the icebound Ohio, some 1,700 Cherokee camped near Mantle Rock in Livingston County, Kentucky.



Cherokee James Vann built his house near what is now Dalton, Georgia.

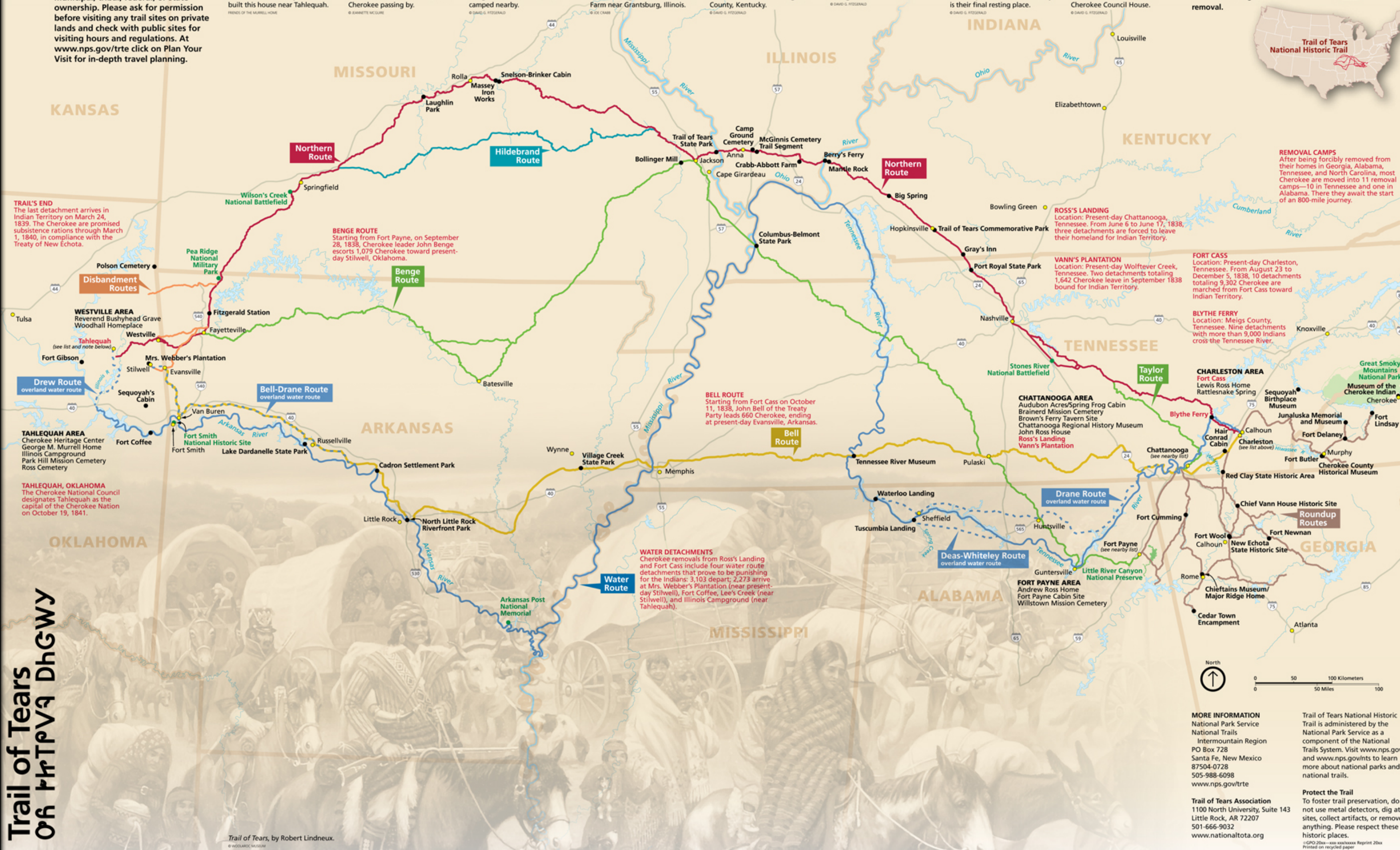


Brainerd Mission was a stopping point and hospital during removal. For many Cherokee, its cemetery is their final resting place.



Tennessee's Red Clay State Historic Area near Chattanooga has a reconstruction of the Cherokee Council House.

Look for official national historic trail signs. The **Auto Tour Route** signs along highways, streets, and backcountry roads guide you to official trail sites and segments. The **Original Route** signs tell you that you are retracing the exact or nearly exact historic route taken by the Cherokee during the removal.



**TRAIL'S END**  
The last detachment arrives in Indian Territory on March 24, 1839. The Cherokee are promised subsistence rations through March 1, 1840, in compliance with the Treaty of New Echota.

**BENGE ROUTE**  
Starting from Fort Payne, on September 28, 1838, Cherokee leader John Benge escorts 1,079 Cherokee toward present-day Stilwell, Oklahoma.

**BELL ROUTE**  
Starting from Fort Cass on October 11, 1838, John Bell of the Treaty Party leads 660 Cherokee, ending at present-day Evansville, Arkansas.

**WATER DETACHMENTS**  
Cherokee removals from Ross's Landing and Fort Cass include four water route detachments that prove to be punishing for the Indians: 3,103 depart; 2,273 arrive at Mrs. Webber's Plantation (near present-day Stilwell), Fort Coffee, Lee's Creek (near Stilwell), and Illinois Campground (near Tahlequah).

**ROSS'S LANDING**  
Location: Present-day Chattanooga, Tennessee. From June 6 to June 17, 1838, three detachments are forced to leave their homeland for Indian Territory.

**VANN'S PLANTATION**  
Location: Present-day Wolftever Creek, Tennessee. Two detachments totaling 1,642 Cherokee leave in September 1838 bound for Indian Territory.

**FORT CASS**  
Location: Present-day Charleston, Tennessee. From August 23 to December 5, 1838, 10 detachments totaling 9,302 Cherokee are marched from Fort Cass toward Indian Territory.

**BLYTE FERRY**  
Location: Meigs County, Tennessee. Nine detachments with more than 9,000 Indians cross the Tennessee River.

**CHATTANOOGA AREA**  
Audubon Acres/Spring Frog Cabin  
Brainerd Mission Cemetery  
Brown's Ferry Tavern Site  
Chattanooga Regional History Museum  
John Ross House  
Ross's Landing  
Vann's Plantation

**CHARLESTON AREA**  
Fort Cass  
Lewis Ross Home  
Rattlesnake Spring  
Sequoyah Birthplace Museum  
Junaluska Memorial and Museum  
Fort Delaney  
Fort Butler  
Cherokee County Historical Museum  
Fort Newnan  
New Echota State Historic Site  
Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home  
Cedar Town Encampment  
Atlanta

**MORE INFORMATION**  
National Park Service  
National Trails  
Intermountain Region  
PO Box 728  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
87504-0728  
505-988-6098  
[www.nps.gov/trte](http://www.nps.gov/trte)

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail is administered by the National Park Service as a component of the National Trails System. Visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) and [www.nps.gov/trte](http://www.nps.gov/trte) to learn more about national parks and national trails.

**Protect the Trail**  
To foster trail preservation, do not use metal detectors, dig at sites, collect artifacts, or remove anything. Please respect these historic places.

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